

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06668 291040Z

14

ACTION EB-07

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN, EEWT, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET POLICY ON USE OF PRIVATE PLANES FOR FLIGHTS INTO USSR

1. FRENCH EMBOFF ADVISED COMMERCIAL ATTACHE APRIL 27 THAT SOVIET MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS RECENTLY INFORMED FRENCH EMBASSY THAT OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES WOULD NO LONGER BE GRANTED TO WESTERN BUSINESSMEN WISHING TO USE COMPANY PLANES FOR TRIPS TO USSR. SOVIETS REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED THAT THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN DUE TO "OVERCROWDING" IN THE MAIN AIR LANES BETWEEN MOSCOW AND WESTERN EUROPE. FRENCH EMBOFF NOTED THAT FRENCH EMBASSY HAD COMPLAINED TO MINISTRY THAT FRENCH BUSINESSMEN WERE RECEIVING LESS FAVORABLE TREATMENT THAN THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS AS FAR AS CLEARANCES FOR PRIVATE FLIGHTS WERE CONCERNED.

2. COMMENT: NEXT TEXT OF SOVIET POLICY IN THIS AREA WILL COME IN CASE OF GE CHAIRMAN REGINALD JONES, WHO PROPOSES TO FLY TO MOSCOW ON A COMPANY PLANE ON MAY 15. IN VIEW OF HIGH SOVIET INTEREST IN DEVELOPING CONTACTS WITH GE, THEY MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO DENY FLIGHT CLEARANCE REQUEST EVEN IF THEY HAVE TAKEN DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO REFUSE SUCH
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REQUESTS.

RECENT SOVIET PRACTICE, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN CONSISTENT WITH REPORT
PASSED ON BY FRENCH, WITH ALL APPLICATIONS FILED BY EMBASSY FOR
PRIVATE FLIGHTS
DURING 1976 DENIED. FRENCH REPORT SAME EXPERIENCE (IN CASES OF
PRESIDENTS OF THOMSON-CSF AND LOUIS DREYFUS).
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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